Deputy President.—If permission is given, then in that case there is no necessity for the resolution.

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—It has been said that that also will be considered along with the Excise Committee's report.

Motion put and agreed to.

Hence the following resolution stood adjourned:—

"This Council requests the Government to introduce in the Legislative Council a Local Option Bill."

6. Qualification of the Police.

Deputy President.—The next is resolution No. 6 standing in the name of Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—I do not move.

Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government to fix School Final Education as the minimum qualification of candidates for recruitment to the Police Force".

7. List of Resolutions, etc.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do not move that resolution.

Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn:—

"This Council requests the Government to supply non-official Members of the Council with a printed list containing the questions, resolutions, motions, Bills and amendments to Standing Orders disallowed prior to any meeting of the Council stating for what reasons and under what sections of the Council Regulation and Rules they have been disallowed."

8. Introduction of metres in Ernakulam & Mattancheri.

Deputy President.—Resolution No. 8 stands in the name of Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Sir, the resolution runs thus:—

"This Council recommends to Government that meters for the water pipes leading into private houses in Ernakulam and Mattancheri towns be introduced at once."

The admirable speech, which the Chief Engineer, Mr. Aravindaksha Menon, delivered during the first Council in connection with the introduction of metre, is still ringing in my ears. No doubt I then opposed him. But I did so in the pious hope that his appeal would have had the effect of the introduction of metre. It was purely as a piece of charity that I agreed to the supply of water to the residents of Ernakulam, at the expense of the outsiders. But I now find a lavish waste of water, with no feeling of the burden which it causes on the outsiders without corresponding benefit to themselves. I know many instances

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where tubs of water are collected for plunge baths and where water is freely used for gardening purposes. It will be difficult, nay almost impossible, to prevent such waste of water unless some check is imposed on the consumer. Cutting off the supply in the night is certainly no proper check as the consumer anticipates the cut in the night and makes a big store in the day time.

There are many localities in Ernakulam the residents of which are anxious to get pipe water as they are even prepared to pay for that which they consume. The practice in all the Municipalities and Corporations where water is thus supplied is to supply a specific quantity to every house free of charge and to charge for the surplus consumed. This can be done only by the introduction of metres and this alone will enable a proper control and distribution of the water supply which has been brought to Ernakulam at an enormous cost.

So I request all the Members, especially those who come from outside, to vote for this motion.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

ഇതിനു മുമ്പ് ഈ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി വെള്ളാരപ്പള്ളി മെമ്പർ ഒരു adjournment motion കൊണ്ടുവരികയും വലിയ വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ നടക്കുകയും ഉണ്ടായി. വെള്ളം കിട്ടാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി. പറഞ്ഞുകൂട്ടത്തിൽ മീറ്റർ വെയ്ക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയും വലിയ വാദപ്രതിവാദമുണ്ടായി. മീറ്റർ വെയ്ക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ തന്നെ സമ്മതിക്കുകയും ഉണ്ടായി. അതല്ലാതെ ഒരു നിവാരണവുമില്ല എന്നാണ് പറഞ്ഞത്. ഇപ്പോളാണെങ്കിൽ പണ്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്ന കുളങ്ങളും കിണറുകളും എല്ലാം മൂടികഴിഞ്ഞു. പുതിയ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്കു പൈപ്പ് വെച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നതുമില്ല. ഇന്നലെത്തന്നെ ഇവിടെ വെള്ളം വരവ് നിൽക്കയുണ്ടായി.

ഡാക്ടർ എ. ജി. മേനോൻ.—ഇന്നലെ മാത്രമല്ല Council ഉള്ളപ്പോഴെല്ലാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഒരാൾ പറഞ്ഞു ഞങ്ങൾ വരുമ്പോളാണ് വെള്ളം നിർത്താറുള്ളതെന്നാണ്. ഞങ്ങളെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിച്ചാലെ മീറ്റർ വേഗം വെക്കുവാൻ അനുവാദം കിട്ടുകയുള്ളു എന്നു വെച്ചിട്ടാണത്രെ. മീറ്റർ വെയ്ക്കാതെ ശരിക്കു വെള്ളം കിട്ടുവാനും പുതിയ പൈപ്പുകൾ വെയ്ക്കുവാനും തരമില്ല എന്നു പറയുന്നസ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഏതു തരത്തിലും ഇതു നടത്തുന്നതു വലിയ കഷ്ടംതന്നെ. എണ്ണത്തേച്ച് പൈപ്പിന്റെ അടുക്കൽ നിൽക്കുമ്പോൾ വെള്ളം വരാതിരുന്നാൽ ഇതിൽപ്പരം കഷ്ടമെന്താണുള്ള

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ള്ളൂ? ഇതു എന്തുകൊണ്ടിതുവരെയും നടത്തിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു.

ഡാക്ടർ എ. ജ ി. മേനോൻ.— കൌൺസിലിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ഇവിടെ അരുതെന്നു പറയുന്നതൊക്കെ ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടു്. പിന്നെ ഇതെന്താണു മടി? പുതിയ വീടുകളിൽ പൈപ്പുകൾ വെച്ചു കൊടുപ്പാൻ ഏതവിധത്തിലാണു് സാധിക്കുകയെന്നു വെച്ചാൽ അതു ചെയ്യണം. മീറർ വെച്ചാലെ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു എന്നു പീഫു് എഞ്ചിനീയർ പറഞ്ഞതിനാലാണു ഈ motion കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ആലുവായ വെള്ളം വേണ്ടെന്നു വച്ചു പഴയ തരത്തിലാക്കിയാലും വിരോധമില്ലാ. ഈ വിധത്തിൽ രണ്ടുമല്ലാത്ത നിലയിൽ ജനങ്ങളെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കുന്നതാണു് വലിയകഷ്ടം. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഉടനെതന്നെ എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether the Government has passed any Proceedings on the resolution passed by this Council regarding the introduction of metre in Ernakulam?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—No.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The resolution is still under the consideration of the Government?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—No Proceedings has yet been passed. It is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether the Government has introduced meters in places within their own control; I mean places such as the Hospital, hostels, Government Houses and other public buildings?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—The question of the introduction of metre in these Government buildings has been sanctioned by the Government. Estimates are being prepared and the work will be carried out with as little delay as possible.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I rise to oppose this resolution. And I want to speak as dispassionately on the subject as possible.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—You may speak passionately.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I should speak passionately because it is the duty of the Government to give water to every one and to give as much water and even a little more than what is sufficient. In all water supply schemes, let it be understood that water is provided not only for the proper use but also for a certain amount

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of abuse. A certain quantity, more than what is necessary for human purposes, is always provided in all water supply schemes.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Even for gardening?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Even for gardening. Let it be so. How many people in Ernakulam can afford to keep gardens? In the first place, Ernakulam is a poor country. In a poor country like this, I think you cannot find about the length and breadth of Ernakulam more than 10 private gardens.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Cocoanut gardens we mean.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I can meet that also. Cocoanut gardens are not at all watered in Ernakulam. I can ask the Hon'ble Member for Trichur what cocoanut gardens are watered by the Alwaye water.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—In Ernakulam they need not be watered at all.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I have seen cocoanut gardens watered by the pipe water.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Have you? I thank you for the information. We in Ernakulam do not water cocoanut trees at all.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—You are on the other side of Ernakulam.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Even when I was in Ernakulam, and I am still in Ernakulam.

Apart from all that, now that the Government is going to introduce metre into their public institutions, I would respectfully ask this House to suspend judgment upon the abuse of water by the people in Ernakulam, because you will find that we have been asking times out of number to introduce metre into these Government institutions and find how much water coming from Alwaye is used in these Government institutions. The remaining volume of water that comes from there if you distribute, it will be found beyond doubt that the water consumed in bulk by the population of Ernakulam is even less than the free supply that the Government is to give.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Who uses that?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The whole country.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—No. It is consumed largely in the institutions like the hostels.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The hostels are not intended for Ernakulam only. There is a bigger representation of the outsiders there than the Ernakulam people. People from the other

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constituencies are welcome to come and live here. These are provided for the outsiders. No Ernakulam student lives in Hostels. They live in their homes.

The point raised by the mover of the resolution is that much waste of water takes place in Ernakulam at present, and to check this waste of water, metre is absolutely necessary, because a free supply will be made for their use, and if they have to use excess water, they must be made to pay is a proposition which we are prepared to grant. If the Government is satisfied that the resident population in Ernakulam is using more water than they are entitled to use, free of charge, because they are paying rental and water-tax, then it will be time to introduce metre into the private houses. As far as I know in my house there was no metre. In the next house they would not give service connection unless metre was put. That house was the house of the Comptroller of the State. There were his children, his family, his servants and everything and yet not a single month was the water-supply authority able to charge one single anna because such a house will have a high rental and so the quantity of water allowed will be large. And taking that average, what will happen if you introduce this metre without knowing the ins and outs? Upon the poor houses it will playhavoc. A poor man of a 5 rupee rental will have naturally a very small and limited supply of water. But in the case of a man who pays a rental of Rs. 50 he is getting a large supply of water and with a less number of children he can afford to use the water for watering his garden. He may water everything. The poor man who pays 5 rupees rent and who may have 5 children will require 6 peoples' quantity of water. Therefore, it is that I said, do not lookinto A and B alone. Take the residents as a whole. If the resident population of Ernakulam can be convicted of the charge that they are wasting water or using water more than the free quantity that they are entitled to for the tax that they pay, in bulk, then, I say, the Government has got an absolute case, which we cannot deny, for the introduction of metre. Now, if you introduce metre without ascertaining that, it will be a sin you commit upon the poor and not upon the rich, and for that we have been asking the Government to put metre. Wherever you feel that the rich man is using water or abusing the use of water or wasting water, then put a metre at his door. There is no use of approaching the question with petty jealousies and what can I say? I do not want to say anything. But I request Hon'ble Members to grasp the problem and to vote sensibly upon it. The residents of Ernakulam do not belong to Ernakulam. Ernakulam belongs to everybody in the country. What does it cost if a metre is put? 40 rupees has gone and has gone to the outsider. That is not it.

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There is not the necessity for its introduction. I make this statement as emphatically as I can with some knowledge of the statistics from the Municipal Council of which I was a member for a long time. They are satisfied that the water that comes into the private houses by service connection does not xceede the free quantity of water they are entitled to. The water goes through the public hydrants, where, however, if you put the metre, there can be no check. If you put the metre in the schools, colleges and hostels and hospitals, whatever be the quantity, you can find out what quantity is consumed by them. You want the poor houses of Ernakulam to be metered. And after putting the metre, if you cannot charge a pie; what is the earthly use? I make the statement that by putting metre into the private residences of the people and examining the service connections, you will not get any money worth the name, not even a hundred rupees from those people.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—But they won't be using as much water as they have been using till now.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Not because that they will use less water. They will use all the water they have been using at present. I want to demonstrate that. Supposing there is a big metre at the water head, won't that record flow into Ernakulam? The flowing quantity of water through the public hydrants can be measured, and if in, the public institutions, now you introduce metre, you can easily ascertain the balance quantity that flows into private houses. If the Government can show that the balance quantity which flows into the private houses exceeded the limits, then Government will have made out a case for the introduction of metre for the water flowing into the private service connections. If, on the other hand, after experimenting, Government find that the water flowing into the private service connections is less than the free allowance, which the people are entitled to in bulk, then I say this Council would have done a wrong unto the poor people of Ernakulam. Let the experiment be tried. Let the proposition be brought forward by the Government itself after the experiment and after preparation of statistics. Now that orders have been passed and sanction has been given for the introduction of metre into public institutions, the Government can well afford to wait for a month or two, and if the Government find that the public of Ernakulam are using more water than the free allowances, then I shall certainly agree to the introduction of the metre, but not till then. Otherwise you are imposing on the poor people a burden for paying for unnecessary things, a device that cost money, all for using their own free allowance, and that is the aspect you are taking. If you can convince this House that the people of Ernakulam are wasting water in the

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private houses, then and then alone can the introduction of metre into the private houses be justified. I will now go to the seconder's proposition. The Government have not gone the right way. What they say is, 'all right, we teach you a lesson. Till you accept the resolution we shall not give you water.' I say the Government is erring. They have been paying their house-tax, they are paying their water-tax, and yet they have been denied water. To stop water to teach a lesson! If you will not accept our advice for Rs. 40 which we will get by way of metre, we shall cut off water. We shall not give water to any new house that is built. No metre, no water. And as people will not consent to metre, no service connection to them. Prove, prove, prove that we are wasting water. We shall put metre. But you will not accept the challenge. You will not put a metre in your public institutions. You will afterwards come and say that it is a mistake, a Himalayan mistake, just as you did with regard to the Karuvannur diversion. And who brings this proposition? The constituency for Nellai, that metre should be introduced. Unless metre is put, we shall cut off your supply. What is the remedy? A very easy remedy. The Chairman of the Municipality, I am sure, will undertake that. The Municipality will put a metre at their cost and he shall be given the option of cutting off the connection if we are found wasting water. What is this jealousy? Jealousy! Jealousy! I don't think I will convict any of my Hon'ble friends with what I will call jealousy. Because Ernakulam has got water, some metre should be put. You are asking your own citizens, your own compatriots. Who denies this matter? In mills and in all public places there are metres. In hotels also there are metres. In those places, you must put metres. Why put a poor man, who cannot make both ends meet, to the additional burden of metre? If the Government is satisfied, and the Government can place facts before this House, that the water used by the citizens of Ernakulam in their residences exceeds the free quantity of water that they are entitled to use by watering gardens, by watering cocoanut trees and by watering what not, then and then alone will the Hon'ble Member be justified in asking for metre. Yet, what is the provocation now to bring this proposition I cannot understand. So, we, citizens of Ernakulam, let it not be understood or let it not be stated or said that we opposedthe proposition out of selfish interest. We don't want to expose ourselves to the charge. Every citizen of Ernakulam or every resident of Ernakulam and every Member sitting here will endorse in favour of the proposition, if the Government can carry conviction into the minds of those sitting here by bringing statistical facts that the citizens of Ernakulam waste water, and then I submit in the absence of all that, you shall call on the mover to withdraw the proposition now and bring it up again at

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another time. I oppose this resolution upon the ground that sufficient data has not been obtained so far, by the Government, to establish this proposition that the residents of Ernakulam waste water or use more water than what they are entitled to use freely in their houses at present.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—On a point of informat on, may I know how many private house connections have been introduced in Mattancherri?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—None that I know of.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—None.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I understand that some water is supplied to Tata Mills. May I know whether the same quantity of water is supplied to the Tata Mills at a concession rate of 8 annas and also to the Railway?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—It is 12 annas only for the Railway. For Tata Mills it is Rs. 3.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—What is the quantity supplied to the Tatas?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—10,000 gallons per day.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—When the matter was discussed in this Council last time, there was a promise by the Secretary that whether the Government is under any obligation to continue that scheme will be looked into. Has that been looked into?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't quite catch the point.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I raised a question last time whether we are under any obligation to supply any quantity of water to the Tatas for all times to come or if the supply is short we can recede.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—No.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—May I know with what object metres are proposed to be put in hostels? Has the Government any idea of taxing them?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—When private connections have been metered just for the purpose of checking waste, Government institutions need not be treated as different from the private residences.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will you kindly let me know the quantity of water that could be removed from the Alwaye river per day? I want to know the quantity that you are removing now.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—9 lakhs of gallons per day.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—How much are you getting now?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—About 6½ lakhs. We are now working 17½ hours.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Do they work more than 17½ hours?

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Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—They were working for 17½ hours and during the last summer they had to work even for 21 hours.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I rise to support this motion brought forward by my friend here. It has been stated by the Member for the Jews that anybody who opposes this measure is actuated by that supreme virtue of jealousy.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Certainly not, Sir. I never meant any insinuation.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—All that I can say is that the House should clearly understand that, so far as this matter is concerned, the Members who are residing in Ernakulam are not representing the public of Ernakulam. I make this statement deliberately because the House should realise that in Ernakulam the people are divided into two sections, the haves and the have-nots, that is to say, those who *have* got pipe connections in their houses and those who *have not* such conneotions. A large portion of the people of Ernakulam belong to the have-nots, people who have not pipe connections, and it is their contention that it is due to the Members who are living in Ernakulam. It is due to them that the Government could not undertake this metre scheme to give water and equal facilities to those who have not. I am on many-sided grounds, because a large number of men representing different shades of opinion belonging to different status of life, men whose words ought to carry weight, come and tell us that they don't want metre, and so on. Let you not be guided by the thought that the people living in Ernakulam represent Ernakulam. Let there be a clear understanding that this is no insinuation of jealousy, in doing what is right or what is wrong. When you say that the poor man is affected by the metre system, let it be clearly understood that it is not so. The poor man can take water from the main pipe. Nobody is going to tax for that water. Further this tax is based upon the house-tax. They collect it in the shape of house-tax, half of which, I believe, is wrter-tax. The most unfortunate part of it is that those who pay water-tax do not get water. They have to pay for the water, but they don't get water. You are adding insult to injury. Taking money like that is robbing the Government of the money by the Municipality and at the same time not giving water. No one is more responsible to this state of affairs than the leaders who pretend to represent the public of Ernakulam.

The House rose for the day, it being 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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